

YELLOW-POPLAR

Liriodendron tulipifera L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Tuliptree, Poplar, Tulip-poplar, White-poplar, Whitewood.

FORM: One of the largest trees of the Eastern states; reaches greatest height in the South, where it may attain a height of 150 feet with trunk diameter 5-6 feet; farther north, its height 50-80 feet, diameter 2-3 feet; crown in young trees pyramidal, in older, rather shallow, broad, and spreading.

BARK: On young trees, smooth and ashy-gray; on mature trees bark thick, brown, with shallow furrows, and rounded ridges.

TWIGGS: At first green, smooth, rather slender, often branching, become somewhat glaucous, reddish-brown, finally dark gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, broadly ovate to orbicular, 5-6 inches long, truncate or broadly notched at the apex, rounded or cuneate at the base, sinuately 4-lobed, dark green and lustrous above, dull green and paler below.

FLOWERS: Appear after the leaves, terminal, solitary, greenish-yellow with orange markings, cup-shaped, 2-5 inches wide, 1-1 1/2 inches deep, perfect, with 3 reflexed sepals, and 6 converging petals.

FRUIT: A light brown oblong-pointed cone, 2-3 inches long, about 1/2 inch wide, consisting of carpels 1-1 1/2 inch long in the base of which the seeds are contained.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal bud oblong, flattened, obtuse, dark red, lustrous, somewhat glaucous, with white dots, 1/2-1 inch long; bud scales stipular, and valvate in pairs; lateral buds similar, divergent, sometimes superposed or terminal on short spurs, inch long.

WOOD: Light, soft, brittle, weak, straight-grained, pale greenish-yellow or greenish-brown, thin nearly white sapwood.

USES: Lumber, furniture, veneer. Historical uses: Shingles, woodenware.

HABITAT: Prefers deep, rich, moist soil along streams, bottom lands and on moist slopes,

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves peculiar only to the yellow-poplar; the tulip-shaped flower; stipular scars encircling the twigs at the nodes; pith often divided by partitions of stone cells.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: In every county in the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruit | 9. An ovule |
| 2. Diagram of a flower | 10. A carpel |
| 3. A flower, a sepal and two petals removed | 11. Vertical section of a carpel |
| 4. A stamen, anterior view | 12. A seed showing the raphe |
| 5. A stamen, posterior view | 13. A seed, showing the side opposite the |
| 6. A pistil | 14. Vertical section of a seed |
| 7. A stigma | 15. Cross section of a seed |
| 8. Vertical section of an ovary | 16. An embryo |



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